

Civil Affairs Provide Windows for Winter

*Story and Photo by Spc. Jamie Bender
1ST Brigade Combat Team*

AL HABBINIYAH, Iraq - The fourth phase of Operation OK Corral is ongoing for Civil Affairs (CA) teams in the town of Khalidiyah and the surrounding area. The team recently spent \$39,300 on humanitarian assistance projects during the continuing operation.

"Our job was to identify projects that would benefit the most people possible," said Maj. Gottfried Koblitz, civil affairs team B.

"We made assessments and identified projects that had not been previously touched by CA before. There had been soldiers [in this area] but very little humanitarian assistance."

The projects include putting windows in ten schools and water sanitation projects.

"The city counsel said they wanted to put windows in the schools because winter is coming up," said Koblitz. "We gave them \$10,000 to repair the windows in the ten schools that were most critical. And this is just a start. We want them to provide us with proposals so they can help themselves. In the future, the ministry of education, which is in Baghdad, will be providing operating budgets."

The CA teams are also looking at water sanitation projects such as repairing broken water mains.

"The septic system here is very taxed," said Koblitz. "They don't have the ability right now to relieve the system as necessary, so we are trying to provide them with septic trucks so they can provide overall sanitary conditions for the populace in general. We also want to repair some of the piping that has been destroyed or broken from years of neglect."

The goal of civil affairs teams is to raise the quality of life for the Iraqi people, Koblitz added.

"We want to bring it back to pre-war levels at the minimum, and anything we can do to bring it above that level so the people can see that we genuinely care for them," he explained.

In addition to the schools and water systems, CA teams looked at

the local identification and citizenship office as well as the electrical and municipal building.

"We try to assess the government buildings and schools first. The things that affect the most people," said Koblitz. "Our job is to get the government up and running. For us, end state involves not only the people having a better quality of life, but the government being able to control their own destinies and make their own decisions about what is good for them."

Money was also given to ten mosques to make some cosmetic improvements.

"Ramadan is coming up and we want to show the people that we do care about the local culture and religion," said Koblitz.



High Five - Col. Buck Conner teaches an Iraqi boy how to high five on a recent trip to Habinayia. Conner's security team often carries candy in the vehicles to hand out to local children.

While there was some concern about this area because of negative influences and attacks made on U.S. forces, Koblitz said he felt the interaction with the district counsel was very positive.

"I didn't feel any negative feedback," he said. "The city counsel seemed to be very appreciative. They realize that we want to help the citizens and rid the town of negative factions that are causing problems for everybody."

While Operation OK Corral initiated the Civil Affairs operation in the Khalidiyah area, it will be a long-term project.

Because the operation is ongoing, Koblitz said it is important that the projects affect everybody in the district.

"We have to be careful that we don't just focus on one city because the citizens in the surrounding communities need our help as well," he said.

The CA projects do more than just raise the quality of life for people.

"Another important thing we want to do is create employment," said Koblitz. "If you pay people to get off the streets by giving

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Chapel Renamed to Honor Fallen Soldier

Story and Photos by Spc. Jamie Bender
1st Brigade Combat Team

AR RAMADI, Iraq-The Camp Junction City chapel was renamed the Cutchall Memorial Chapel in memory of Staff Sgt. Christopher Cutchall, who was killed in action on Sept. 29 in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack while on patrol.

"It's been a tradition in the Army that when we lose someone in a hostile situation to name something in the base camp after that person," said Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Green, 1st Brigade chaplain. "We named the chapel after Staff Sgt. Cutchall because it was suggested by one of the other soldiers. We talked it over with the command and the unit that the soldier was in."

The naming of the chapel after Cutchall was more than just tradition.

"It also helps us keep in mind the sacrifice that one of our own made," said Green.

The Cutchall Memorial Chapel holds services every Sunday. Lutheran services are at 8 a.m and 5 p.m. followed by a Protestant service at 9 a.m. A Latter Day Saints service is held at 11 a.m. and another Lutheran service gathers at 5 p.m. On Saturdays a Catholic Mass is held in the evening and arrangements are being made to have another on Sunday.

"For soldiers who are not of the Christian faith, we make available to them whatever they need to worship," said Green. "The chapel is open to any person of any faith. If they need anything, we try to get it for them. That is part of our responsibility to provide for the religious needs of everybody. We may not be able to do their services, but we can facilitate them as best we can." Unit ministry teams, consisting of a chaplain and assistants, have several responsibilities, said Green.

"One of our biggest challenges is making sure the morale of the troops stays high and stays consistent," he said. "We work hard to do that. Also, when soldiers have any needs or problems back home, we help them work through that."



In Prayer - Soldiers bow their heads in prayer during services at the Cutchall Memorial Chapel. The chapel was dedicated in honor of Staff Sgt. Christopher Cutchall who was killed in action on Sept. 29.

The Cutchall Memorial Chapel is also home to the camp library.

"Just before we left Fort Riley we got in touch with the library on post and asked if they had any books we could take with us," said Green. "They gave us more than 300 books so we packed them up and sent them here. We have everything from westerns and romances to fantasy novels. A lot of the soldiers have a limited number of books, or none at all. To keep them from being bored, these are available to them."

The morale of the chaplains and their assistants is very high, said Green.

"They are pumped up and excited about what's going on in our services and our bible studies," he explained. "The teams that I have talked to at Camp Manhattan and Camp Ridgeway are excited too. We are happy to be here and work with the soldiers."

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Windows for Winter

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them a job, it is less of a temptation for them to take money from the terrorists. If they have a regular job, they don't have a need for money to set up improvised explosive devices or to throw a grenade. If the schools are fixed, the kids go to school and they don't hang out on the streets."

Civil military operations do not just involve civil affairs teams; it requires the involvement all soldiers.

"Part of civil military operations is how you treat people, and how you talk to them," said Koblit.

"Soldiers can be culturally aware and respect the local culture and customs. Any little thing can be a flash point. If you mistreat somebody or disrespect a value, it can become a flash point where we have a whole crowd of people angry because of something that one soldier did. Soldiers so far are doing a good job and the commanders are doing a good job of keeping the soldier informed."

Despite the Loss of a Friend, Soldiers Continue to Complete the Mission

*Spc. Michael J. Carden
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
82nd Airborne Division
Photos by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnson
982nd Signal Battalion*

AL FALLUJAH, Iraq—Each day introduces a new challenge for the paratroopers deployed to Iraq. Whether it is battling the difficulties of being away from their families or coping with the loss of a fellow soldier, they remain focused on their mission. The All American soldiers are constantly triumphing over one adversity after another.

This is evident in the paratroopers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), who are currently mourning the death of Staff Sgt. Paul Johnson. Just four days prior, Johnson was killed by a roadside bomb during a mission to deliver school supplies to children in Fallujah.

The company held a memorial service in Johnson's honor on the morning of Oct. 24 at Forward Operating Base Volturno. Almost immediately after the service, the paratroopers began preparation for their next mission, Operation Round-Up II, which took place that night.

"This is a difficult time for us," said Sgt. 1st Class Donald Walton, Co. A, 1st Bn. 505th PIR, "but we've got to stay focused on the mission. I believe that with every successful mission we complete, it may save another soldier's life."

Along with the safety of their fellow soldiers, the troopers are concerned for the well-being of the Iraqi people. They express the importance of working together to create a better Iraq.

"We understand that our purpose here is not an individual effort," said Spc. Matthew Jeanneret, Co. A, 1st Bn., 505th PIR. "It is a brotherhood of soldiers trying to do the right thing in rid-
ding Iraq of evil people."

The troops did just that. Operation Round-Up II resulted in the confiscation of eight rocket propelled grenade (RPG) rounds, five AK-47s, a shotgun, ammunition, homemade bomb materials and the detainment of eight anti-coalition personnel.

Among the eight personnel detained was Sulyman Saba. His was a key capture because of his connection to the Ba'ath Party and other anti-coalition groups. He is also responsible for selling RPGs and other weapons and training individuals to plan attacks against U.S. troops.

Although the mission proved successful, the soldiers never lost sight of the painful realities of war. The thought of Johnson lingers on as a constant reminder of the dedication and selfless service displayed everyday by the service men and women of the U.S. military.

"This is one of my proudest moments," said Capt. Terence Caliguire, commander, Co. A, 1st Bn., 505th



A paratrooper kneels in front of Staff Sgt. Paul Johnson's helmet and rifle during a memorial service held in his honor Oct. 24 at Forward Operating Base Volturno.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Johnson
982nd Signal Battalion*

PIR. "We held a professional and thoughtful memorial service, and then carried on the mission just as Staff Sgt. Johnson would have wanted it."



Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division, raid a suspected terrorist's home Oct. 25 in Al Fallujah, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Lee Davis, 982nd Signal Battalion

The Question of the Week ?

Which army component has the largest representation in theater - Active or Reserve?

Last Week's Answer:

While many can dispute the origins of Halloween, most agree that the majority of the customs we associate with the holiday originated in Ireland and other parts of Great Britain.

Iraqi Civil Defense Corps is Put Through its Paces at the Navea Training Center

*Story and Photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls, Jr.
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment*

NAVEA TRAINING CENTER, Iraq - Graduates of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps will guard oil refineries, water pipelines, power plants, schools, hospitals and airports. They will also help protect something else in Iraq - the nation's future. The first group from the area graduated Oct. 22.

"We are happy to keep the security to our country, to our people and to our children," said ICDC graduate Al Abdul Kalif Hamad.

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment is directing the ICDC training. They are charged with training up three battalions of ICDC guards by March 1. The ICDC trainees are taught soldier skills such as drill and ceremonies, guard procedures, identifying explosives, marksmanship as well as human rights training.

"The majority of the trainees have a good attitude and are enjoying the training," said Staff Sgt. Jeramie Yeoman, a drill instructor in Charlie Battery, 2nd Bn., 5th FA.

Yeoman observed the trainees respond to respect. "If you show them respect with the little things, then the big things (you expect from them) will fall into place," he said.

Many Iraqi trainees had the idea Americans are not friendly, Yeoman said. On the American side, some of the cadre underestimated the ability of the Iraqis to quickly grasp the skills they were being taught, Yeoman said.

Misconceptions quickly evaporated as the Iraqis learned their American mentors were friendlier than they thought and the Americans were surprised at how willing their trainees were to learn.

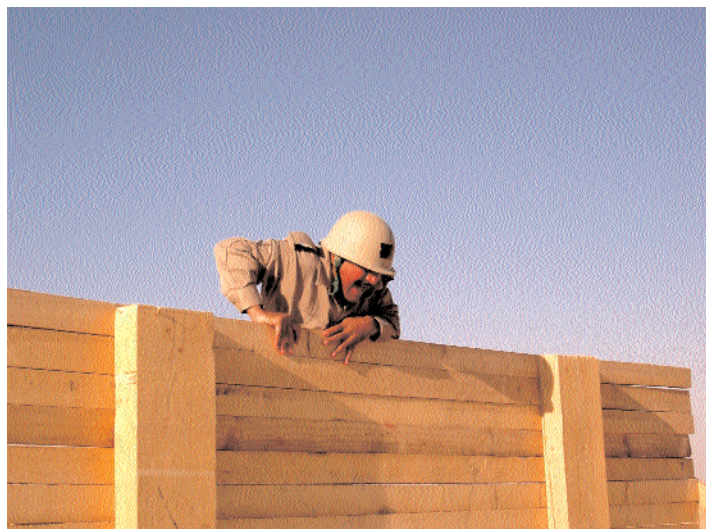
The cadre and the trainees seemed to genuinely enjoy working with one another. The cadre could often be seen encouraging the ICDC recruits and both parties enjoyed good humor with each

other.

Students and cadre agreed that the hardest part of the training was overcoming the language barrier. They have interpreters at the camp, but only a few and they can't be everywhere at one time.

"The language barrier was hard, but little by little we taught them," Yeoman said.

The Iraqi workers who are renovating the facilities at Navea



ICDC - A trainee in the first ICDC class in Al Anbar's history struggles to get up over the wall.

Training Center look favorably on their countrymen in the ICDC.

"They feel they're comrades, like us, are helping our country," said Tarq Omar Baker Laldelani, general contractor for the Navea Training Center.

The ICDC graduates also expressed a cooperative attitude toward their American allies.

"We feel the American soldiers are helping us greatly," said Wamid Ismael Ibrahim Dawad. "We need America here. This is the most important time in our history."

The graduates said those who are in opposition to Coalition Forces are mostly radical fundamentalists who don't understand. Moreover, they don't see America and other nation's forces as a threat to their religion or culture.

"You have your religion and we have ours," said Asad Abdul Amir Hadi. "We see. We learn. We don't mind at all."

The ICDC graduates see a bright future for their country.

"We're full of natural resources, and we have helped to rebuild our country. These things make us very optimistic," said Ibrahim Hamad Abid.

Gov. Kareem Burgess called the graduation of the first class "a historic day" and that the ICDC graduates will play "a vital role" in their nation's history.



ICDC - Staff Sgt. Jeramie Yeoman, a drill instructor in 2nd Bn., 5th FA, gets an Iraqi recruit on the right foot in drill and ceremonies training at the ICDC training center.

Kellog, Brown & Root Ensures Soldiers are Well Fed at New Facility in Fallujah

Spc. Emily Donaghy
350th MPAD
Photos by Spc. Michael Carden
82nd Abn Public Affairs

FALLUJAH, Iraq-The new Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR) Dining facility (DFAC) opened and served 788 soldiers Oct. 18 at Forward Operating Base St. Mere.

Since then, the number of meals served has quadrupled. Along with the number of meals served, the headcount is up to 2,600 soldiers per day. Add the take-out service provided for soldiers

"It's also important for the soldiers to have a nutritional meal," said Shahin. He explained that all of the food served from the DFAC is carefully inspected and cannot be served if it does not meet the standard set forth by the KBR inspection committee and the military as well.

The standards require that the proper heating and freezing temperatures be maintained and refrigerators are cleaned every three hours, just to name a couple, Shahin added. The food quality standards also have to meet certain specifications. Most of the fresh food served, such as chicken and fresh fruit, comes from Jordan and Saudi Arabia and has to be "standard approved" before it is purchased.



DFAC - The employees of the Kellogg Brown & Root Dining Facility are very careful as they cut and beat their meat.

Kellogg, Brown and Root supplies a 21-day menu to the cooks and then each DFAC site provides the items on the menu. The menus include nutritional items from every food group.

"Variation in foods is also important for healthy soldiers", said Shahin. "The different menus include everything from beef fajitas and pinto beans to fried chicken and mashed potatoes."

With such a variety provided at every meal, these menus will surely cater to all soldiers' tastes, keeping them well fed and ready for the next mission.



DFAC - Everyday the employees of the Kellogg Brown & Root Dining Facility serve a variety of meats and vegetables for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team troops.

who are not able to visit the DFAC and more than 3,000 soldiers dine on fresh food daily.

To accommodate the number of soldiers being fed at the new 20,000 square foot DFAC, Daoud and Partners (D&P) moved quickly to erect the structure. The Jordanian subcontractor of KBR had the new DFAC up and running just three weeks after digging the first shovel load of dirt.

It only took about 50 workers to complete the construction, said Abdel Rahim, the D&P construction manager.

"At least the soldiers don't have to eat MRE's anymore. I think they must be happier now," Rahim added.

"I think the soldiers are very happy with the new DFAC. They are smiling when they get their hot food, cold drink and sit down in a clean, relaxing atmosphere," said Imad Shahin, the food and beverage manager for D&P.

Shahin also said he is in the process of making the dining room even more comfortable by adding tablecloths and curtains and running a satellite signal to four big-screen televisions.

One of the most noticeable characteristics of the DFAC and its workers is the level of cleanliness maintained.

"It's very important to have a hygienic environment while you eat and maintaining that is more than half of the work done every day," Shahin said.



DFAC - A smiling soldiers holds his out his plate so a Kellogg Brown and Root employee can put food on it.

The Back Page...

Guard, Reserve mobilizations

WASHINGTON -- "A very, very detailed" look at units will be done before an undetermined number of them are told to pack their bags for a year-long deployment in Iraq, said Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Somewhere within the next two to three weeks we should be able to come forward to (Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld) with our recommendations on what units fulfill the capabilities that the commanders on the ground want," Pace said at a Pentagon press conference Oct. 21.

The capabilities of both active duty and reserve component units will be given an equal look during that evaluation, Pace said. And because of the current deploy-

ment tempo for active-duty units, the Army Reserve and National Guard are getting a close look to replace active duty units in Iraq, Pace said.

The bulk of the units being mobilized are logistical units to support the combat units in country, Pace said.

Pentagon planners are also working to make sure units aren't called up needlessly, Pace said.

"We don't want to call up a tank repair platoon if, in fact, we're not going to have tanks," he said. "So we want to make sure that we don't just mindlessly replace one unit with another."

However, "rushing to anticipate" what will happen in the coming weeks is probably a waste of time, said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

There are about 60,000 Reserve and Guard Soldiers in Iraq now and other

Reserve and Guard units will replace them, Pace said.

Three National Guard enhanced separate brigades going to Iraq next year have already been told about their deployments, Pace said.

Enhanced separate brigades have about 5,000 Soldiers and field a mixture of infantry, armor, artillery, engineer and support units.

The approaching holidays are big factor in the planning and alert process, Pace said. Right now, it's a goal of the Joint Chiefs not to mobilize the reserve component units before the holidays, he said.

"As we think through how to make sure we alert them in plenty of time to think it through but not have them actually mobilized over the holidays if we don't have to," Pace said.

Free speech arrives in Salah al Din

TIKRIT, Iraq (Army News Service, Oct. 30) -- Now that the veil of oppression that engulfed many Iraqis has lifted, a local initiative is allowing Salah Al Din province residents to air their problems openly.

The new Complaints Office, an arm of local law enforcement and backed by both 4th Infantry Division and local leadership, is giving residents an outlet to sound off about police officers, crime, and problems in the Salah al Din area.

Iraqis in the area once bombarded U.S. forces with complaints about ineffective law enforcement and heightened criminal activity. Unable to address many of the problems, the Army sought help from Iraqi Gen. Muzir, the province's police chief, said Maj. Kathleen Perry, 418th Civil Affairs Battalion's civil defense team chief.

Muzir, who was aware of the problem, helped spearhead the

initiative. Instead of submitting grievances to the coalition, the residents are now able to receive help from their new local government.

The aim is to solve the problems of citizens who had no recourse before, Yunas said.

The office, based in Tikrit, is intent on helping people in the surrounding areas as well, and has found a way to reach out to all of the residents in Salah al Din.

Complaint boxes have been placed throughout the province. Residents who face problems can submit a complaint on paper. Once a week, the complaints are documented and dealt with on a priority basis, said Yunas.

In fact, all residents are welcome to voice their opinions following years of silence.

"We are ready to receive all their problems," Yunas said.

Sand flies dangerous in Iraq

WASHINGTON -Service members in Iraq who fail to follow preventive measures risk the bite of the tiny, but fearsome, sand fly, Army medical officials said.

It's peak season for these pests through the end of November, doctors said, and their bite can carry a disease called leishmaniasis.

There are two kinds of leishmaniasis--cutaneous and visceral.

People who get the cutaneous form have sores on their skin that do not heal after several weeks. The sores form weeks after an infected sand fly bites. The sores initially appear bumps on the skin, then form an open, flat, circular sore with raised edges. Untreated, the skin sores can last for years and leave permanent scars, but are rarely life threatening.

Visceral leishmaniasis, on the other hand, is a much more serious infection of the liver, spleen

and other internal organs that can be fatal if not treated. People who get the visceral form of the disease become ill from several weeks to six months after becoming infected, medical officials said. Those infected will usually have high fever, weight loss, and an enlarged spleen and liver. They also have other symptoms that show up in blood tests -- such as anemia, low white cell count and low platelet count.

Preventive measures include taking steps to avoid or prevent sand flies from biting. These include:

- * Limiting outdoor activity at dusk and during the evening, when sand flies are most active.
- * Wearing protective clothing and insect repellent.
- * Treating uniforms with permethrin.
- * Using permethrin-treated bed netting.

Detailed information about prevention is available at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/news/Leishmaniasis.asp>.